

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 129093

S/S-BODINE - FOR TODMAN

FOLLOWING REPEAT BRASILIA 4471 ACTION SECSTATE INFO RIO DE
JANEIRO SAO PAULO JUN 02, 1977

QTE C O N F I D E N T I A L BRASILIA 4471

EO 11652 GDS

TAGS PINT SHUM PINS BR

SUBJECT: ARMY MINISTER PRAISES BRAZILIAN ARMY INTELLIGENCE AND
SECURITY OFFICERS, A SIGN THE ARMY IS MOVING TO THE RIGHT

1. SUMMARY. ARMY MINISTER FROTA HAS HEAPED HIGH PRAISE ON
ARMY OFFICERS ASSIGNED TO INTELLIGENCE AND SECURITY FUNCTIONS.
FROTA'S COMMENTS COULD BE SIGNAL THAT THE ARMY'S SECURITY AND INTELLI-

GENE APPARATUS WILL NOT HAVE ITS PREROGATIVES AND ACTIVITIES
RESTRICTED FURTHER AND IT IS POSSIBLE THIS SECTOR WILL BE MORE ACTIVE
IN THE FUTURE. CURRENT STUDENT DISTURBANCES, INCLUDING AN ILLEGAL
RALLY SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 4-5, MAY WELL HAVE ENCOURAGED FROTA'S
STATEMENT. IN ADDITION, FROTA MAY HAVE BEEN MOTIVATED BY PRESIDENTIAL
SUCCESSION POLITICS.

END SUMMARY.

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2. IN A SPEECH TO THE ARMY HIGH COMMAND ON MAY 26, MARKING HIS
THIRD ANNIVERSARY AS ARMY MINISTER, GENERAL SYLVIO FROTA TOOK THE
OPPORTUNITY, AS HE SAID: "TO SEND A WORD OF RECOGNITION AND GRATITUDE
TO THOSE COLLEAGUES WHO, ENGAGED MORE DIRECTLY IN THE ARDUOUS
MISSION OF INTELLIGENCE AND SECURITY, STRUGGLE FOR THE GENERAL
TRANQUILITY, DESPITE A LACK OF UNDERSTANDING WHICH IS OFTEN CARRIED

TO THE EXTREMES OF CALUMY AND PERFIDIOUSNESS. PITTING THEMSELVES AGAINST THE INSIDIOUS CAMPAIGN OF INTERNATIONAL SUBVERSION, WHICH TRIES TO SUBMIT US TO COMMUNIST IMPERIALISM, THESE ANONYMOUS AND SELF-SACRIFICING DEFENDERS OF PUBLIC ORDER RUN RISKS, DISDAIN COMFORTS, SACRIFICE THEIR FAMILIES IN THE PERFECT UNDERSTANDING THAT UPON THEIR UNTIRING VIGILANCE DEPENDS, IN GREAT PART, THE LIBERTY AND SURVIVAL OF THE NATION."

3. FROTA'S SPEECH WAS OTHERWISE A ROUTINE RECAPITULATION OF THE PRINCIPLE OBJECTIVES HE HAS HAD AS ARMY MINISTER AND PROGRESS IN REACHING THESE GOALS, WHICH HE DEFINED AS:

1. INCREASING THE OPERATIONAL CAPABILITY OF THE TROOPS;

2. CREATING A RATIONAL PERSONNEL POLICY; AND

3. ASSURING HIGH QUALITY MEDICAL ATTENTION TO MILITARY PERSONNEL. FROTA ALSO MENTIONED THE CREATION OF IMBEL, THE ARMY'S EQUIPMENT MANUFACTURING ORGANIZATION, AS A MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENT, SINCE IT HELPS FREE BRAZIL FROM DEPENDENCE ON FOREIGN SOURCES.

4. COMMENT. WHILE NOT MENTIONED BY NAME, THE NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE SERVICE (SNI), THE ARMY INTELLIGENCE CENTER (CIE), AND THE INTELLIGENCE OPERATIONS DETACHMENTS (DOIS) WERE THE CHIEF ORGANIZATIONAL BENEFICIARIES OF FROTA'S "WORD OF RECOGNITION AND GRATITUDE." THAT HE CHOSE TO INSERT THIS PRAISE IN A SPEECH WHICH DID NOT REALLY CALL FOR IT, AND BEFORE THE HIGHEST LEVEL BODY IN THE ARMY, SUGGESTS THAT FROTA'S COMMENTS MAY BE A SIGNAL THAT THE ARMY'S SECURITY AND INTELLIGENCE APPARATUS WILL NOT HAVE ITS PREROGATIVES AND ACTIVITIES RESTRICTED ANY FURTHER. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT DOIS, FOR EXAMPLE, WILL BE MORE ACTIVE IN THE FUTURE, CONFIDENTIAL

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ALTHOUGH WE WOULD NOT EXPECT THEM TO RETURN TO THE EXCESSES COMMITTED IN THE MEDICI ADMINISTRATION.

5. IT IS PROBABLE THAT THE CURRENT STUDENT DISTURBANCES WERE IN PART RESPONSIBLE FOR FROTA'S COMMENTS. HIGH LEVEL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS ARE WORRIED, PERHAPS UNDULY, BY THE DISTURBANCES (SEE BRASILIA 3829) AND THE ARMY MUST FEEL THE NECESSITY OF SUPPORTING

ITS INTELLIGENCE AND SECURITY FORCES IN GETTING TO THE BOTTOM OF WHAT IT VIEWS AS A GREAT STUDENT CONSPIRACY. A RALLY OF UNIVERSITY STUDENTS FROM ALL OVER BRAZIL, WHICH EDUCATION MINISTER NEY BRAGA HAS BANNED AS "ILLEGAL", HAS BEEN CALLED FOR BELO HORIZONTE OVER THE JUNE 4-5 WEEKEND.

6. FROTA'S STATEMENTS MUST ALSO BE READ AS THE DISCREET CAMPAIGNING OF A PRESIDENTIAL CONTENDER WHO REALIZES THAT:

1) PERCEIVED SUBVERSION IN BRAZIL, PRINCIPALLY IN THE FORM OF STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS, IS MOVING THE ARMY TO THE RIGHT, AND 2) THE GROUND TO THE RIGHT IS COMMANDED BY SNI CHIEF GENERAL JOAO

DE OLIVEIRA FIGUEIREDO, ONE OF THE FRONT RUNNERS IN THE PRESIDENTIAL
COMPETITION.
CRIMMINS UNQTE CHRISTOPHER

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